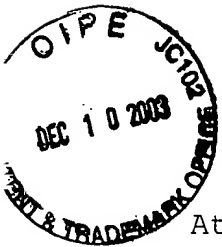


Application No. 09/909,980
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933



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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
SERIAL NO. 09/909,980
GROUP: 3739

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N. Sarnadas

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

Attorney Docket No. 03214/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Takayuki SUZUKI et al
Serial No. : 09/909,980
Filed : July 23, 2001
For : ENDOSCOPE AND ENDOSCOPIC
INSTRUMENT AND METHOD
USING THE SAME
Art Unit : 3739
Examiner : John M. Mulcahy

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-EXAMINING GROUP 3739

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

This is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 8, 2003, the term for response to which expires on January 8, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims are set forth in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 are amended; claims 2, 6 and 8-12 and 20 are maintained; claims 5 and 13-19 are canceled; and claims 21-23 are added.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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